

Fleet Service's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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How do I contact Fleet Services?

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What does Fleet Services do?

The Fleet Services workgroup provides equipment acquisition, maintenance and financing to support the entire city. Under the direction of the Facilities and Fleet Manager, the workgroup manages the equipment operations and equipment replacement funds, coordinates all fleet acquisitions, repairs equipment, coordinates outside vendor services and provides two-way radio acquisition and maintenance support.

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How many people work in Fleet Services and what do they do?

There are 16 people in Fleet Services: two supervisors, eight mechanics, three parts specialists, three radio technicians and a fleet assistant. The Fleet Services team does preventive maintenance and general repairs; orders vehicles, equipment, parts, supplies and fuel; conducts emissions tests and safety inspections; and maintains radio equipment to assure the continued safe and effective operations of city programs.

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Who are Fleet Services' customers?

Ultimately, the most important customers are Boulder residents and the public who benefit from the internal support Fleet Services provides to city departments for emergency vehicles, maintenance vehicles/equipment, radio contact and other mobility needs that support city services.

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How large is the city fleet?

The city fleet consists of 441 vehicles and over 528 other types of equipment (such as lawn mowers, carts, trailers, air compressors, chain saws, weed eaters, auxillary equipment for vehicles, radio equipment, etc.), totaling approximately \$26 million in original purchase price.

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What factors help determine what type of vehicles the city will use?

There are several sometimes-conflicting factors that staff balances when selecting vehicles:

- Appropriateness and suitability to job requirements
- Compliance with regulatory mandates (state and federal)
- Alternative fuel use (Ethanol/Biodiesel/Electric/Hybrid)
- Fuel efficiency

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What are Fleet Services' environmental goals?

The city fleet has met the Kyoto goals to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 7% below 1990 usage levels. Fleet will continue its efforts to reduce GHG emissions by purchasing alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles.

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What is an alternatively fueled vehicle (AFV)?

A vehicle that uses liquefied propane gas (LPG), ethanol, biodiesel, electricity, compressed natural gas (CNG) or some combination of these and conventional gasoline or diesel fuel. One of the benefits of an AFV is that it exceeds federal clean fuel emission standards. Another is that it reduces consumption of petroleum based fuels.

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When does Fleet replace vehicles?

It varies by class of vehicle, but non-emergency services fleet vehicles are typically replaced every seven to ten years. Each vehicle has several "lives," including a technological life, a functional life and an economic life. The replacement of a vehicle or piece of equipment is based on a number of factors including age, mileage, cost to operate and maintain, condition and residual value.

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Why doesn't Fleet buy only AFVs when replacing an older vehicle?

Not all vehicles are available in an AFV configuration. For example, there are no AFV compact trucks, nor are there any AFV compact station wagons or compact sedans with all-wheel-drive.

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Does Fleet Services participate in the city PACE (Partners for a Clean Environment) program?

Fleet Services was in the original group of PACE-certified organizations and continues to be a model for others seeking to become PACE certified.

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How are citywide objectives integrated into decisions made about the city's Fleet?

The city's fleet policies are designed to support broad objectives to ensure that Fleet Services is in compliance with all applicable governmental regulations, including inspection programs, clean air regulations, underground tank requirements, alternatively fueled vehicle requirements and all other existing and future regulations. Additionally, the Facilities & Fleet Manager works with a cross-departmental advisory committee, which provides feedback on fleet policies and guides decisions on Fleet acquisitions to ensure that vehicle specifications most effectively address user needs and citywide goals, including environmental objectives and service requirements.

In 2007, the Fleet Policy Advisory Group committed to purchasing alt fuel vehicles to the maximum extent possible and set a goal of 65% of all vehicles purchased will be alt. fuel.

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Does the city use biodiesel?

Yes! The city uses B20 (a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% fossil fuel) in 95 vehicles and pieces of equipment.